

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CU-02 NIC-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

AGR-05 SWF-01 PA-01 FMC-01 COA-01 DLOS-03 L-02 H-01

AEC-05 ACDA-05 DOTE-00 NSF-01 AF-04 FEA-01 DODE-00

FPC-01 INT-05 PM-03 OES-03 /123 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5162

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18217

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, ENRG, PO, UR

REF: A. MOSCOW 16803 B. LISBON 4801

1. TASS VESTNIK DECEMBER 3 BRIEFLY REPORTED MEETING IN MOSCOW
DECEMBER 2 OF PORTUGUESE TRADE DELEGATION WITH SOVIET MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOVIET/
PORTUGUESE TRADE AGREEMENT UNDER ARRANGEMENTS MADE DURING NOVEMBER
VISIT OF PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF STATE CUNHAL. VESTNIK MENTIONED
POSSIBLE PORTUGUESE EXPORTS OF CORK, ALMONDS, CONSUMER GOODS.

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2. MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY PORTUGUESE

AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW NEVES DURING COURTESY CALL ON
AMBASSADOR DECEMBER 3. ACCORDING TO NEVES, PORTUGUESE MAINLY
INTERESTED IN EXPORTING SHOES, CLOTHING AND TEXTILES TO USSR.
NEED TO EXPORT TEXTILES PARTICULARLY STRONG SINCE US MARKET FOR
PORTUGUESE TEXTILES HAS NOW DECLINED. NEVES SUGGESTED THAT
PORTUGUESE IMPORTS FROM USSR WILL BE MAINLY RAW MATERIALS,
ALTHOUGH STEEL MIGHT BE IMPORTED FOR SHIPBUILDING AND PORTUGAL
"ALWAYS NEEDS OIL." PORTUGUESE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE
IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT IN MOSCOW DECEMBER 15 FOR SIGNING OF
NEW TRADE AGREEMENT.

3. COMMENT: COMMODITY STRUCTURE OF NEW TRADE AGREEMENT SHOULD
PROVIDE SOME INTERESTING CLUES ON CURRENT SOVIET APPROACH TOWARD
PORTUGAL. FROM VIEWPOINT OF NEEDS OF SOVIET ECONOMY AND
SOVIET IMPORT PRIORITIES, MOST PORTUGUESE EXPORTS WILL HAVE
VERY LOW RATING INDEED. SOVIET PURCHASES OF SOME ITEMS SUCH AS
WINE, ALMONDS, CONSUMER GOODS COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS ALMOST
PURELY POLITICAL, ON OTHER HAND, USSR HAS MANY ITEMS OF OFFER
WHICH PORTUGAL NEEDS AND WHICH COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR
EXPORT WITH LITTLE DIFFICULTY. INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS AND
STEEL TOP THE LIST. OIL IS IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY. SOVIET
SURPLUSES FOR EXPORT TO WESTERN COUNTRIES ARE LIMITED AND ARE
BEING CAREFULLY DOLED OUT TO WESTERN BUYERS FOR MAXIMUM HARD
CURRENCY EARNINGS AT ROTTERDAM PRICES. HENCE, ANY EXPORTS OF OIL
TO PORTUGAL, COULD, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, BE REGARDED AS A SPECIAL
FAVOR TO A NEW CUSTOMER WHICH MAY (IN SOVIET VIEW) EVENTUALLY
YIELD EXTRA DIVIDENDS FAR REMOVED FROM ECONOMIC AREA.
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